General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 32

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.44/Rev.2 and Corr.1)*]

56/262. Multilingualism

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally,

Also recognizing that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[1] in particular article 27 concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Recalling also its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 52/23 of 25 November 1997, 54/64 of 6 December 1999, 55/258 of 14 June 2001, and 56/64 B and 56/242 of 24 December 2001,

I

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] and recalls the actions suggested therein;

2. *Also takes note* of the appointment of a coordinator for multilingualism;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the willingness of the Secretariat to encourage staff members, in formal meetings with interpretation services, to use any of the six official languages of which they have a command;

4. *Stresses* that the employment of staff shall continue to be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions;

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] A/56/656.

5. *Also stresses* that the promotion of staff in the Professional and higher categories should be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter and in line with the provisions of resolution 2480 B (XXIII) and the relevant provisions of resolution 55/258;

6. *Encourages* United Nations staff members to continue to use actively existing training facilities to acquire and enhance proficiency in one or more official languages of the United Nations;

7. *Takes note* of the overhaul of the recruitment system undertaken by the Secretariat within the context of the Galaxy Project, and requests the Secretariat to ensure that the system becomes effective and operational as soon as practical;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 56/242, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report on the utilization rates of interpretation services and conference facilities at all duty stations with a view to improving interpretation services, and requests the Secretary-General to carry out a comprehensive review of the reasons for holding informal calendar meetings without interpretation;

9. *Also recalls* its resolution 56/64 B, in which it noted the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to enrich on a multilingual basis the stock of books and journals in the Library, and section V, paragraph 1, of its resolution 56/242, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the use of information technology, including computerized terminology data banks;

10. *Further recalls* its resolution 56/64 B, and emphasizes the importance of multilingualism in United Nations public relations and information activities;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of its resolutions on multilingualism, including the implications of section I of the present resolution;

II

12. *Welcomes* the decision by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 17 November 1999 that 21 February should be proclaimed "International Mother Language Day", and calls upon Member States and the Secretariat to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the measures that can be taken by Member States and international organizations within the United Nations system in order to strengthen the protection, promotion and preservation of all languages, in particular languages spoken by persons belonging to linguistic minorities and languages facing extinction;

III

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Multilingualism".

94th plenary meeting
15 February 2002

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 April 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 37

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.72 and Add.1)*]

56/263. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds is a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing, therefore, that urgent action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Recognizing also the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for urgent international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of many of the producing, exporting and importing States, especially developing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling all the Security Council resolutions related to conflict diamonds adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution 55/56 of 1 December 2000, in which it called upon the international community to develop detailed proposals for a simple and

workable international certification scheme for rough diamonds, based primarily on national certification schemes and on internationally agreed minimum standards,

Believing that the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict can be substantially reduced by introducing an international certification scheme for rough diamonds and that such a scheme would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions containing sanctions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Emphasizing that the envisaged international certification scheme for rough diamonds should be simple, effective and pragmatic, should not impede the present legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, and should not hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Acknowledging the important initiatives already taken to address the problem of conflict diamonds, in particular by the Governments of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Sierra Leone and by other key producing, exporting and importing countries, and encouraging those Governments to continue those initiatives,

Acknowledging also the continued efforts of regional organizations and other groups of countries to curb conflict diamonds,

Welcoming the important contribution made by the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, as well as civil society, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation will contribute to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal controls for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that an international certification scheme for rough diamonds would only be credible if all participants have established internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meet minimum standards,

Welcoming the important contribution made by the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African producing countries, towards developing proposals for the envisaged international certification scheme,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis, involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the reports on the Kimberley Process[1] submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/56, and congratulates the participants in the Kimberley Process on their achievements thus far;

[1] See A/56/502, A/56/675 and A/56/775.

2. *Recognizes* that the proposed international certification scheme for rough diamonds would also help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds that play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Welcomes* the detailed proposals for an international certification scheme for rough diamonds developed in the Kimberley Process and presented in the form of Kimberley Process working document 9/2001 (as amended), entitled "Essential elements of an international scheme of certification for rough diamonds, with a view to breaking the link between armed conflict and the trade in rough diamonds", dated 29 November 2001,[2] which provide a good basis for the proposed certification scheme;

4. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to resolve outstanding issues;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring that the measures taken to implement the international certification scheme for rough diamonds are consistent with international law governing international trade;

6. *Urges* the finalization of the international certification scheme and its subsequent implementation as soon as possible, recognizing the urgency of the situation from a humanitarian and security standpoint;

7. *Underlines* the need, as an essential tool for the successful implementation of the proposed international certification scheme, for the collation and dissemination of relevant statistical data on the production of and international trade in rough diamonds;

8. *Supports* the extension of the work of the Kimberley Process until such time as an international certification scheme is adopted and its simultaneous implementation by participants begins;

9. *Urges* Member States to participate actively in the proposed international certification scheme, and stresses that the widest possible participation in the proposed international certification scheme is essential and should be encouraged and facilitated;

10. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Canada to host the next meeting of the Kimberley Process in Ottawa, in order to achieve further progress;

11. *Requests* the countries participating in the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly, no later than at its fifty-seventh session, a report on progress made;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

96th plenary meeting
13 March 2002

[2] See A/56/775, annex VIII.